

## State Attorney General reaches out to Winslow

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Have you ever witnessed, been a victim of or been aware of something that you believed to be highly unethical or illegal, but had no where to turn for advice? Now northeastern Arizona residents will have somewhere to go to communicate their concerns over issues like discrimination, corruption or corporate, business and institutional scams.

Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard came to Winslow last week to meet with residents, elderly, students and City Hall to discuss some things important to Arizona residents.

Goddard came to Winslow to thank Navajo County for their strong voter support towards his re-election and to speak to Winslow Junior High students about Internet safety. Primarily, he came to announce the opening of an Attorney General satellite office in Winslow; operating out of the Winslow Fire Department every Monday from 9 a.m.- noon.



The Attorney General is the chief legal officer of the State elected by the people of Arizona. The Attorney General's Office provides legal advice to most State agencies and investigates and prosecutes consumer fraud, white-collar crime, organized crime, public corruption, open meeting law violations, environmental violations and deprivation of civil rights. The office also includes divisions for Child and Family Protection, Civil, Civil Rights, Criminal and Public Advocacy.

Winslow City Attorney Dale Patton met with Goddard to discuss establishing the satellite office in Winslow.

"This is really good to have in the city," Patton said. "We expect it to be open by next week."

The Attorney General's Community Services Program includes 26 satellite offices around the state, Winslow being the 27th, to make it easier for Arizona's most vulnerable populations, including seniors, minorities and people unfamiliar with their rights, to come in and receive help in filing formal complaints to the Attorney General's

Office.

"Sometimes people are distraught or embarrassed to come forward with information and it helps for them to meet with someone face to face," said Tom Reade, program manager for the Community Services Program.

Reade said that once the Community Services volunteer assists a person with filing a complaint, it goes to the Attorney General's Office and they will respond in about three to four weeks with a cause finding letter. If they believe there is just reason, the state may then contact the appropriate agencies for an investigation into the allegations.

"Typically, if we do accept a case, we will first try to seek corrective action out of court," Reade said.

Goddard said this local office would help to let him know what some of the major problems are in northeastern Arizona. Local residents may also visit the Community Services office to pick-up information booklets on consumer fraud and predatory lending and debt collectors.

"Prevention is the best way to stop criminals. By giving more Arizonans information about consumer fraud and resources available for help, more people will spot the red flags and protect themselves and their loved ones," Goddard said.

Many local politicians were in Winslow to meet with Goddard and looked forward to these programs his office has initiated.

"Pass this information on to people you work with and other people in your daily life," said Navajo County Supervisor Jesse Thompson.

The Attorney General's Community Service satellite station will be open every Monday from 9 a.m. noon, and is located at the Winslow Fire Dept. at 215 Taylor Ave. between Second and Third Streets. More hours of operation are to be determined for a stationing in the Winslow Senior Center.

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